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Imagery analysis report

**Possible Composite/Composite-Modified
Propellant Production Line Under
Construction in South Africa (S)**

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WNINTEL

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POSSIBLE COMPOSITE/COMPOSITE-MODIFIED PROPELLANT PRODUCTION LINE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN SOUTH AFRICA (S)

1. (S/D) A possible composite/composite-modified propellant production line is under construction at the Pretoria Ammunition Loading Facility [] in South Africa (Figures 1 and 2). The facility is 4.5 nautical miles (nm) west of Pretoria []

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[] In addition to the possible composite/composite-modified propellant line, the facility contains a possible nitrocellulose production line, a possible nitroglycerin production line, two long buildings under construction that could house explosives and ballistics test chambers, several large buildings under construction that could be storage/support buildings or fabrication buildings, one explosives storage area consisting of 30 small bunkered buildings, and one explosives storage area under construction that will consist of approximately 30 large bunkered buildings when completed.

2. (CONFIDENTIAL) [] South Africa is developing an antiship cruise missile—probably a copy of the Israeli Gabriel, which uses a composite-propellant booster.¹ Kentron Company of South Africa is currently involved in missile development for the South African armed forces and has a division in both Pretoria and the Cape Town area. Kentron is reportedly planning to build a composite propellant plant for the production of rocket motors that is expected to be operational by 1982.^{1,2} Based on this timetable, it is possible that the plant under construction near Pretoria could be the Kentron composite propellant plant.

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3. (S/D) Construction of the possible composite/composite-modified propellant production line is still in the very early stages. Additional coverage and analysis will be necessary before making a positive identification. If the facility does house a composite/composite-modified propellant production line, it will be the first such production line identified in South Africa and will reflect significant advances in South African rocket motor production capabilities.

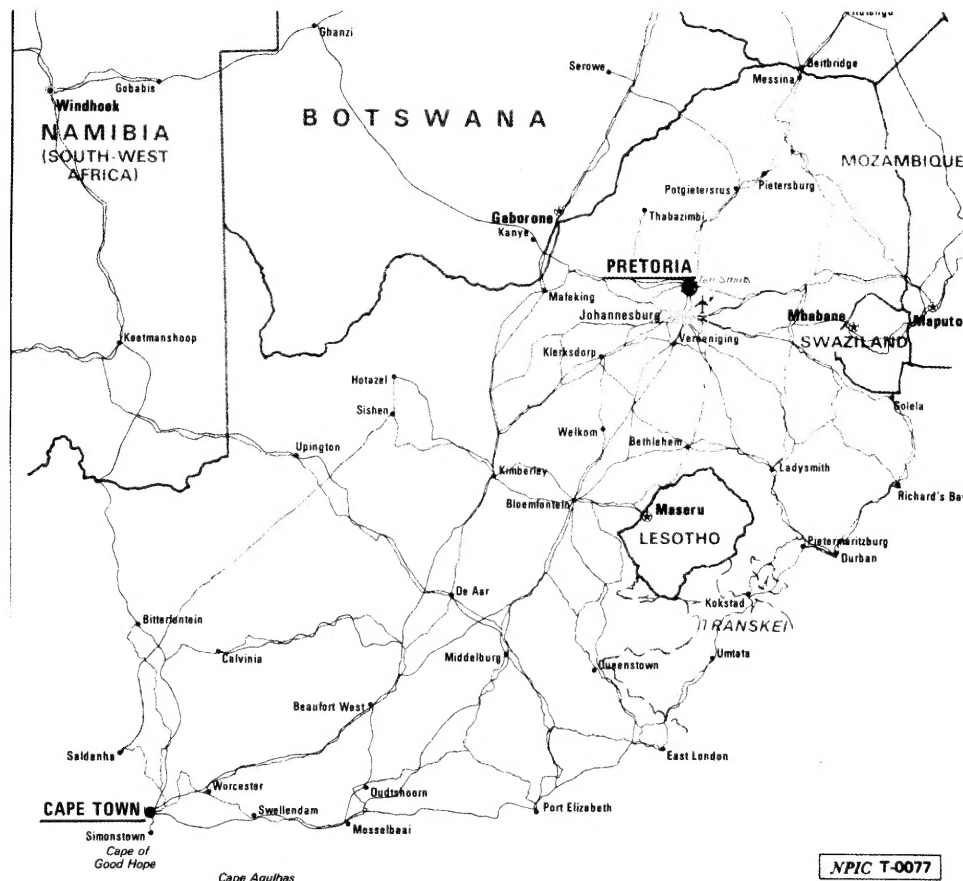


FIGURE 1. PRETORIA AND CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

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REFERENCES

DOCUMENTS

1. NFAC. SW 80-10069J, [redacted] *South Africa's Fledging Missile Program*, Aug 80 (TOP SECRET CODEWORD [redacted])
2. DIA. IR 2352-0420-80, *Research and Production of Tactical Rockets*, Apr 80 (CONFIDENTIAL/WNINTEL/[redacted])

*Extracted information is classified CONFIDENTIAL [redacted]

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